

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-09 EUR-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 IO-14
L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-02 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 /155 W
-----099086 111721Z /41

R 111548Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 219
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: 761ST PLENARY MEETING: STATEMENT BY U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE ON MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO CCD ADRIAN FISHER MADE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON ISSUE OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS
DURING CCD PLENARY ON AUGUST 11:

BEGIN TEXT:

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS SOME VIEWS AS TO THE
BEST WAY THAT THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT
COULD PROTECT HUMANITY AGAINST WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

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IN DOING SO, I WILL BE QUITE BRIEF AND CONFINE MY REMARKS
PRIMARILY TO A DISCUSSION OF THE SUGGESTION MADE BY OUR
DISTINGUISHED SOVIET COLLEAGUE THAT THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH
THIS PROBLEM IS THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY BANNING NEW
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. HE MADE THIS SUGGESTION IN
HIS THOUGHTFUL REMARKS AT OUR PLENARY SESSION ON TUESDAY,
AUGUST 9.

THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM SHARE A COMMON OBJECTIVE WITH RESPECT TO DEALING WITH WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. WE ALL AGREE THAT BOTH EXISTING AND POSSIBLE NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION POSE A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS THREAT TO MANKIND, AND THAT OUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO ELIMINATE AND PREVENT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH WEAPONS UNDER ADEQUATELY VERIFIED AGREEMENTS.

WITH RESPECT TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE EITHER DESIRABLE OR EFFECTIVE TO ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THEM IN A SINGLE TREATY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH WOULD BE TO KEEP THIS ISSUE UNDER REVIEW IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. WHEN SPECIFIC POTENTIAL WEAPONS ARE IDENTIFIED WE BELIEVE IT WOULD THEN BE APPROPRIATE TO DEVELOP A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT DEALING WITH THE WEAPON IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, ANY NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE DIFFERENT TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS AS COMPARED WITH OTHER WEAPONS, AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY FOR ANY AGREEMENT TO CONTROL SUCH A NEW WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION TO BE TAILORED TO THE SPECIFIC WEAPON. THIS IS TRUE NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE DANGERS OF WEAPONS OF MASS

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DESTRUCTION MAY VARY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE MEANS OF VERIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH AN AGREEMENT TO BAN THESE WEAPONS MAY BE QUITE DIFFERENT, DEPENDING UPON THE NATURE OF THE THREAT POSED BY THE WEAPON AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS WHICH MIGHT DETERMINE THE MEANS FOR ITS CONTROL.

THE U.S. DELEGATION HAS READ WITH INTEREST THE REVISED DRAFT TREATY PROPOSED BY OUR DISTINGUISHED SOVIET COLLEAGUE.

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PA-02 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 /155 W
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R 111548Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 220
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY ROME
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IT PRESENTS TWO NEW POINTS WHICH WE HAVE STUDIED
WITH INTEREST. THE FIRST IS A NEW DEFINITION OF WEAPONS
OF MASS DESTRUCTION BY WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO EXPAND
THE 1948 UN DEFINITION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
THIS CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS. THE FIRST PART EMBODIES THE
CONCEPT OF A NEW WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION BASED ON
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES THAT MAY BE
DISCOVERED IN THE FUTURE, OR BASED ON RELATIONSHIPS
AMONG PRESENTLY KNOWN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
PRINCIPLES THAT MAY BE DEVELOPED IN THE FUTURE. I
WOULD SUBMIT, HOWEVER, THAT THE VERY NATURE OF THIS
CONCEPT, ONE DEALING WITH A PRINCIPLE WE DO NOT NOW
UNDERSTAND, OR A RELATIONSHIP AMONG KNOWN PRINCIPLES THAT
HAVE NOT AS YET BEEN CONCEIVED, PREVENTS OUR DEALING IN AS
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CONSIDERED A MANNER AS WE WOULD LIKE WITH THE PROBLEM OF
BRINGING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION BASED ON NEW
PRINCIPLES OR NEW RELATIONSHIPS UNDER CONTROL.

THE SECOND PART CONSISTS OF A RECOMMENDED ADDITION
TO THE STANDARD OF COMPARABILITY IN DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT
CONTAINED IN THE 1948 UN DEFINITION, BY ADDING THE CONCEPT OF
GREATER DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT. WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF
THAT VIEW WERE NOT ALREADY ACCEPTED.

THE SECOND POINT PROPOSED BY OUR DISTINGUISHED
SOVIET COLLEAGUE IS THE CONCEPT OF A COMBINED APPROACH,

THAT WE SHOULD DRAFT AN OVERALL AGREEMENT DEALING WITH ALL NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND ALSO AGREEMENTS DEALING WITH SPECIFIC WEAPONS, AS WE BECOME AWARE OF THEM AND OF THE DANGER THEY PRESENT.

I BELIEVE THE LATTER PORTION OF THIS APPROACH HAS MERIT AND WILL MAKE A SPECIFIC SUGGESTION ALONG THIS LINE. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE OUR EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT WE CAN IDENTIFY, AND WHOSE DANGERS WE CAN RECOGNIZE, WILL BE HELPED BY LINKING IT WITH AN EFFORT TO DRAFT AN OVERALL TREATY DEALING WITH AREAS THAT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR WITH AN EFFORT TO INCLUDE UNDER SUCH AN OVERALL TREATY AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT WHERE WE DO NOT HAVE AGREEMENT THAT IT IS NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE TO IDENTIFY THE POTENTIAL PRODUCTS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD WORK ALONG THE LINES OF THE UN 1948 DEFINITION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND DEAL WITH SUCH WEAPONS IN SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS.

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THE U.S. DELEGATION HEARD WITH INTEREST THE OBSERVATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR THAT SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1948 JUSTIFY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 1948 UN DEFINITION. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH CHANGES; IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD JUSTIFY CHANGING OR TRANSFORMING THE DEFINITION CONTAINED IN THAT RESOLUTION INTO THE OPERATIVE CLAUSE OF A MULTILATERAL TREATY.

THIS POSITION OF THE U.S. DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE BELIEVE WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL A WEAPON HAS BEEN DEVELOPED OR DEPLOYED BEFORE TAKING STEPS TO BRING IT UNDER CONTROL. OUR AGREEMENT ON THE TREATY ON OUTER SPACE AND ON THE TREATY PREVENTING THE EMPLACEMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ON THE SEABED, BOTH CONCLUDED AT A TIME WHEN NO SUCH EMPLACEMENT HAD BEEN MADE, INDICATES WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO PREVENTING MEASURES IN ARMS CONTROL.

THE TEST, HOWEVER, IS WHETHER OR NOT WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE WEAPONS POTENTIAL OF A NEW SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT TO IDENTIFY IT AS THE BASIS FOR A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND TO DRAW UP AN AGREEMENT WHICH DEALS IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER WITH THE DANGER IT MIGHT PRESENT. WE STILL REMAIN FIRMLY OF THE VIEW THAT WE CANNOT DO SO IN A VACUUM BECAUSE WHEN WE ARE DEALING WITH A PRINCIPLE OR A RELATIONSHIP THAT WE DO NOT YET KNOW OR UNDERSTAND, WE

CANNOT MAKE THE RATIONAL EVALUATION REQUIRED IF WE ARE TO
ADVANCE THE COURSE OF BOTH PEACE AND PROGRESS.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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IN SUMMARY, WHAT I HAVE SAID THUS FAR IS, IN SUM, THAT:
(1) WE SHARE THE OBJECTIVE OF PURSUING THE BROAD GOAL OF
CURBING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION; (2) WE FIND THE 1948
UN DETERMINATION TO BE AN ADEQUATE AND REASONABLE BASIS
FOR DECIDING DEFINITIONAL QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN THUS
FAR; (3) WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE 1948 DEFINITION INCLUDES
"RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WEAPONS" AND THAT THIS TYPE OF WEAPON
SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO AN APPROPRIATE SPECIFIC AGREEMENT; AND (4) NONE
OF THE OTHER EXAMPLES SUGGESTED SO FAR SEEM TO US TO QUALIFY
AS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

WE ARE AWARE OF THE FEELING IN THE CCD THAT WE SHOULD NOT ONLY
BE CONCERNED ABOUT WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT WE NOW
CAN PERCEIVE BUT ALSO ABOUT OTHERS THAT MIGHT BE DEVELOPED
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IN THE FUTURE. WE SHARE THIS CONCERN.

ONE APPROACH THAT WILL KEEP THIS PROBLEM CONSTANTLY
BEFORE US, AND THAT WE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER, MIGHT BE
ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY MINISTER OF STATE, LORD
GORONWY-ROBERTS. WE MIGHT WORK TOWARD A UN RESOLUTION WHICH
RECOGNIZES THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF
MASS DESTRUCTION, TAKES NOTE OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS, AND
CALLS ON THE CCD TO KEEP THIS ISSUE UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW
WITH A VIEW TOWARD NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS ON SPECIFIC NEW
TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AS THEY ARE IDENTIFIED.
WE THINK THAT THIS WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE, POSITIVE APPROACH.

END TEXTVANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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